and Policy in their report on "Aspects of Black Economy in India". Some suggestions have been received. These will be kept in view while framing the long-term fiscal policy for combating tax evasion and unearthing black money.

Handicraft training centres in J&k

1630. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the handicrafts training and production centres under his Ministry working in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) the details of the staff employed in such centres alongwith their qualification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHUSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) the required information is being collected.

Cases fo gas leakage

1631. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleaed to state:

(a) the number of cases of gas leakage in factories/mills which occured in different parts of the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons killed/suffered disability due to gas leakage;

(c) the amount of commpensation paid to the next of kin those killed/injured; and

(d) what steps are being taken to prevent such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected.

Closure of Nagpal Combing Mills, Kota

1632. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation against the proposed closure of Nagpal Combing Mills, Kota; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have received a letter from a Member of Parliament.

(b) The State Government, not the Central Government is the competent authority for the grant of permission for closure.

Closure an d Lockouts in West Bengal

1633. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum in June, 1985 from trade unions in West Bengal regarding closure and lockouts;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action have been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A joint memorandum was presented to the Labour Minister at Calcutta on the 2nd June 1985 on the situation arising from lockouts and closures and cut in orders to the Wagon Units in West Bengal. This was followed by discussions on the demands raised therein with particular reference to the immediate reopening of Jute and Textile Mills under lockout/closure, nationalisation of Jute and Tex-

tile industry ,increase in orders for Railway Wagons, revival of sick industries etc. Some of the issues raised in the Memorandum were also discussed in a Tripartite meeting held on 2nd June, 1985 at Calcutta. As the action in this regard is the concern of the Deparment of Textiles and the Railway Board, the matter has been taken up with them.

Exemption of Railwaymen, P&T Employees and Defence Production Staff from the Purview of Industrial Disputes Act

1634. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to exempt the railwaymen, employees of the P&T Department and also employees of Defence production from the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act in order to bring them within the purview of the Central Administrative Tribunals under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the detaiis thereof;

(c) whether Government have discussed the matter with the representative unions of these employees; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (d) A proposal was received for exempting the Departments of Railways, Posts and Telecommunication and Defence Production under section 36B of the Industrial Disputes Act, so that the employees of these Departments who are at present covered by the Industrial Disputes Act, could take up their individual grievances with the Central Administrative Trbiunals under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985. A meeting was held with the Federations/Unions so that they will have an opportunity to express their views before a decision is taken under section 36B of the Industrial Disputes Act. The Unions were generally not in favour of exemption from the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act.

Founding of Gratuity Fund

1635. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to make actuarial valuation of gratuity funds compulsory;

(b) if not, how Government propose to ensure that the provisions made by the corporate bodies are adequate for the purpose of payment of gratuity; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue specific instructions under the Finance Act for funding of gratuity funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (e) A suggestion for making a suitable provision in the Payment of Gratuity Act for compulsory insurance of employers' liability for payment gratuity was considered at the Indian Labour Conference held on 25th and 26th November, 1985 and was generally accepted. The premium rate under the proposed insurance scheme is to be fixed, after actuarial valuation. The recommendation of the Conference will be considered, alongwith the other proposals for amendment of the Act.

Supply of Low Cost Polyester Filament Yarn to Powerlooms

1636. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent powerlooms have been supplied with low cost polyester filament yarn by Government in order to bring down the prices of synthetic fabrics; and